conditions of transfer of Government equity etc. will be decided at the time of finalisation of deal. The interest of workers will be kept in view at the time of finalisation of transfer of management.

Granite Mines in Orissa

739. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of granite mines in Orissa and the areas where these are located;

(b) whether extraction of granite in these mines is not regulated in a systematic manner;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for systematic exploration of granite in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) Under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, granite is a minor mineral for which mineral concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments under the provisions of their respective Minor Mineral Concession Rules. As per information furnished by the State Government of Orissa, 214 mining leases for granite have been granted in Koraput, Gajapati, Puri, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, and Ganjam districts of Orissa. The State Government of Orissa have stated that the extraction of granite in these mines is regulated in a systematic manner as per the provisions of Orissa Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1990.

The Government of India have also notified the Granite Conservation and Development Rules, 1999 with effect from 1.6.1999 for conservation, systematic and scientific mining of granite resources and to prescribe uniform framework with regard

to systematic exploration of granite throughout the country including the State of Orissa.

Programme organised by the NER Woman Welfare Organisation

†740. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme organised by the North-Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation of 4th June in the headquarters of North-Eastern Railways was held as a private or an official programme.

(b) whether the whole Railway machinery was engaged in the said programme and the expenses for this programme was met out of Railway's funds;

(c) if not, whether Government took any action after obtaining information regarding it so that the official money is recovered and action is taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The programme organised by the North-Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation on 4th June in the headquarters of North-Eastern Railways was held as a private programme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Policy for Allotment of Railways Bookstalls

741. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.